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NSC BRIEFING

7 DECEMBER 1955

CHINA PROBLEMS

- I. Ambassador Lodge reports from the UN that, if ChiNats use their veto against Outer Mongolian admission to UN in current "package" deal, general sentiment in GA would favor ouster of ChiNats.

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- II. Meanwhile, ChiComs are bettering their international position on several fronts.
- A. British have informed UN of intention (beginning 15 Jan) to effect unilateral relaxation China trade controls, by "gradual and unobtrusive process" of withdrawing items from export control lists.
 - 1. UN move likely to result in parallel action by other countries.
 - B. ChiComs putting on big display "peaceful intentions" for benefit foreign visitors, improving recognition chances.


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2. Foreign Affairs Committee of French Assembly, 

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 later issued communique stating "French diplomacy should proceed to take account of the fact of the existence of the Peking government."

3. On 6 Dec, we learned that Bruguay's Consul in Hong Kong is now on his way to Peiping, to discuss question of "relations."

4. If diplomatic relations established, united Western Hemisphere front on non-recognition Peiping would suffer first split; other Latin American gov'ts might reassess position.

III. Continuation of ChiCom talks with US at Geneva also apparently enhancing ChiCom international position at expense ChiKats, and Peiping working at keeping talks alive.

A. Although ChiComs being stubborn, thusfar have not risked rupture.

B. US Ambassador Johnson feels latest (1 Dec) ChiCom counter-proposal on US-proposed renunciation of force agreement "almost completely meets the position I have taken" (see Attachment B for language).

- C. Chiang Kai-shek and other Free Asian leaders have implied that continuation Geneva talks strengthen impression that US moving toward recognition Peiping.
- IV. Meanwhile, ChiComs continue to enhance military capabilities against Offshore Islands.
- A. At least 5 of 9 (possibly 11) new air bases under construction along southeast China coast now considered ready for use.
 - B. Also building causeway to link mainland with Tateng Island in Amoy area, from which Communist artillery could reach any part of Big Quemooy.
 - C. G-2 estimate of ChiCom ground strength in Amoy area recently increased from 77,000 to 86,000 (addition of field artillery division, anti-aircraft division).
 - 1. Naval strength near Foochow and Amoy still negligible, however.

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